



Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie

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LRB099 08683 SXM 36084 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 1506

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 1506 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is  
5 amended by changing Section 52 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/52)

7 Sec. 52. Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program; Golden  
8 Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching.

9 (a) In this Section, "Foundation" means the Golden Apple  
10 Foundation for Excellence in Teaching, a registered 501(c)(3)  
11 not-for-profit corporation.

12 (a-2) In order to encourage academically talented Illinois  
13 students, especially minority students, to pursue teaching  
14 careers, especially in teacher shortage disciplines (which  
15 shall be defined to include early childhood education) or at  
16 hard-to-staff schools (as defined by the Commission in

1 consultation with the State Board of Education), to provide  
2 those students with the crucial mentoring, guidance, and  
3 in-service support that will significantly increase the  
4 likelihood that they will complete their full teaching  
5 commitments and elect to continue teaching in targeted  
6 disciplines and hard-to-staff schools, and to ensure that  
7 students in this State will continue to have access to a pool  
8 of highly-qualified teachers, each qualified student shall be  
9 awarded a Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program scholarship  
10 to any Illinois institution of higher learning. The Commission  
11 shall administer the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program,  
12 which shall be managed by the Foundation pursuant to the terms  
13 of a grant agreement meeting the requirements of Section 4 of  
14 the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act.

15 (a-3) For purposes of this Section, a qualified student  
16 shall be a student who meets the following qualifications:

17 (1) is a resident of this State and a citizen or  
18 eligible noncitizen of the United States;

19 (2) is a high school graduate or a person who has  
20 received a high school equivalency certificate;

21 (3) is enrolled or accepted, on at least a half-time  
22 basis, at an institution of higher learning;

23 (4) is pursuing a postsecondary course of study leading  
24 to initial certification or pursuing additional course  
25 work needed to gain State Board of Education approval to  
26 teach, including alternative teacher licensure; and

1           (5) is a participant in programs managed by and is  
2 approved to receive a scholarship from the Foundation.

3           (a-5) (Blank).

4           (b) (Blank).

5           (b-5) Funds designated for the Golden Apple Scholars of  
6 Illinois Program shall be used by the Commission for the  
7 payment of scholarship assistance under this Section or for the  
8 award of grant funds, subject to the Illinois Grant Funds  
9 Recovery Act, to the Foundation. Subject to appropriation,  
10 awards of grant funds to the Foundation shall be made on an  
11 annual basis and following an application for grant funds by  
12 the Foundation.

13           (b-10) Each year, the Foundation shall include in its  
14 application to the Commission for grant funds an estimate of  
15 the amount of scholarship assistance to be provided to  
16 qualified students during the grant period. Any amount of  
17 appropriated funds exceeding the estimated amount of  
18 scholarship assistance may be awarded by the Commission to the  
19 Foundation for management expenses expected to be incurred by  
20 the Foundation in providing the mentoring, guidance, and  
21 in-service supports that will increase the likelihood that  
22 qualified students will complete their teaching commitments  
23 and elect to continue teaching in hard-to-staff schools. If the  
24 estimate of the amount of scholarship assistance described in  
25 the Foundation's application is less than the actual amount  
26 required for the award of scholarship assistance to qualified

1 students, the Foundation shall be responsible for using awarded  
2 grant funds to ensure all qualified students receive  
3 scholarship assistance under this Section.

4 (b-15) All grant funds not expended or legally obligated  
5 within the time specified in a grant agreement between the  
6 Foundation and the Commission shall be returned to the  
7 Commission within 45 days. Any funds legally obligated by the  
8 end of a grant agreement shall be liquidated within 45 days or  
9 otherwise returned to the Commission within 90 days after the  
10 end of the grant agreement that resulted in the award of grant  
11 funds.

12 (c) Each scholarship awarded under this Section shall be in  
13 an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and fees and room and  
14 board costs of the Illinois institution of higher learning at  
15 which the recipient is enrolled, up to an annual maximum of  
16 \$5,000; except that in the case of a recipient who does not  
17 reside on-campus at the institution of higher learning at which  
18 he or she is enrolled, the amount of the scholarship shall be  
19 sufficient to pay tuition and fee expenses and a commuter  
20 allowance, up to an annual maximum of \$5,000. All scholarship  
21 funds distributed in accordance with this Section shall be paid  
22 to the institution on behalf of recipients. For any academic  
23 year in which a recipient enrolled at a public university is  
24 entitled to scholarship funds, he or she is exempt from the  
25 payment of any remaining tuition and fees not covered by the  
26 scholarship.

1           (d) The total amount of scholarship assistance awarded by  
2 the Commission under this Section to an individual in any given  
3 fiscal year, when added to other financial assistance awarded  
4 to that individual for that year, shall not exceed the cost of  
5 attendance at the institution of higher learning at which the  
6 student is enrolled. In any academic year for which a qualified  
7 student under this Section accepts financial assistance  
8 through any other teacher scholarship program administered by  
9 the Commission, a qualified student shall not be eligible for  
10 scholarship assistance awarded under this Section.

11           (e) A recipient may receive up to 8 semesters or 12  
12 quarters of scholarship assistance under this Section.  
13 Scholarship funds are applicable toward 2 semesters or 3  
14 quarters of enrollment each academic year.

15           (f) All applications for scholarship assistance to be  
16 awarded under this Section shall be made to the Foundation in a  
17 form determined by the Foundation. Each year, the Foundation  
18 shall notify the Commission of the individuals awarded  
19 scholarship assistance under this Section. Each year, at least  
20 30% of the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program  
21 scholarships shall be awarded to students residing in counties  
22 having a population of less than 500,000.

23           (g) (Blank).

24           (h) The Commission shall administer the payment of  
25 scholarship assistance provided through the Golden Apple  
26 Scholars of Illinois Program and shall make all necessary and

1 proper rules not inconsistent with this Section for the  
2 effective implementation of this Section.

3 (i) Prior to receiving scholarship assistance for any  
4 academic year, each recipient of a scholarship awarded under  
5 this Section shall be required by the Foundation to sign an  
6 agreement under which the recipient pledges that, within the  
7 2-year period following the termination of the academic program  
8 for which the recipient was awarded a scholarship, the  
9 recipient: (i) shall begin teaching for a period of not less  
10 than 5 years, (ii) shall fulfill this teaching obligation at a  
11 nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool or  
12 an Illinois public elementary or secondary school that  
13 qualifies for teacher loan cancellation under Section  
14 465(a)(2)(A) of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
15 U.S.C. 1087ee(a)(2)(A)) or other Illinois schools deemed  
16 eligible for fulfilling the teaching commitment as designated  
17 by the Foundation, and (iii) shall, upon request of the  
18 Foundation, provide the Foundation with evidence that he or she  
19 is fulfilling or has fulfilled the terms of the teaching  
20 agreement provided for in this subsection. Upon request, the  
21 Foundation shall provide evidence of teacher fulfillment to the  
22 Commission.

23 (j) If a recipient of a scholarship awarded under this  
24 Section fails to fulfill the teaching obligation set forth in  
25 subsection (i) of this Section, the Commission shall require  
26 the recipient to repay the amount of the scholarships received,

1 prorated according to the fraction of the teaching obligation  
2 not completed, plus interest at a rate of 5% and if applicable,  
3 reasonable collection fees. Payments received by the  
4 Commission under this subsection (j) shall be remitted to the  
5 State Comptroller for deposit into the General Revenue Fund,  
6 except that that portion of a recipient's repayment that equals  
7 the amount in expenses that the Commission has reasonably  
8 incurred in attempting collection from that recipient shall be  
9 remitted to the State Comptroller for deposit into the  
10 Commission's Accounts Receivable Fund.

11 (k) A recipient of a scholarship awarded by the Foundation  
12 under this Section shall not be considered to have failed to  
13 fulfill the teaching obligations of the agreement entered into  
14 pursuant to subsection (i) if the recipient (i) enrolls on a  
15 full-time basis as a graduate student in a course of study  
16 related to the field of teaching at an institution of higher  
17 learning; (ii) is serving as a member of the armed services of  
18 the United States; (iii) is temporarily totally disabled, as  
19 established by sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; (iv)  
20 is seeking and unable to find full-time employment as a teacher  
21 at a school that satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection  
22 (i) and is able to provide evidence of that fact; (v) is taking  
23 additional courses, on at least a half-time basis, needed to  
24 obtain certification as a teacher in Illinois; (vi) is  
25 fulfilling teaching requirements associated with other  
26 programs administered by the Commission and cannot

1 concurrently fulfill them under this Section in a period of  
2 time equal to the length of the teaching obligation; or (vii)  
3 is participating in a program established under Executive Order  
4 10924 of the President of the United States or the federal  
5 National Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et  
6 seq.). Any such extension of the period during which the  
7 teaching requirement must be fulfilled shall be subject to  
8 limitations of duration as established by the Commission.

9 (l) A recipient who fails to fulfill the teaching  
10 obligations of the agreement entered into pursuant to  
11 subsection (i) of this Section shall repay the amount of  
12 scholarship assistance awarded to them under this Section  
13 within 10 years.

14 (m) Annually, at a time determined by the Commission in  
15 consultation with the Foundation, the Foundation shall submit a  
16 report to assist the Commission in monitoring the Foundation's  
17 performance of grant activities. The report shall describe the  
18 following:

19 (1) the Foundation's anticipated expenditures for the  
20 next fiscal year;

21 (2) the number of qualified students receiving  
22 scholarship assistance at each institution of higher  
23 learning where a qualified student was enrolled under this  
24 Section during the previous fiscal year;

25 (3) the total monetary value of scholarship funds paid  
26 to each institution of higher learning at which a qualified

1 student was enrolled during the previous fiscal year;

2 (4) the number of scholarship recipients who completed  
3 a baccalaureate degree during the previous fiscal year;

4 (5) the number of scholarship recipients who fulfilled  
5 their teaching obligation during the previous fiscal year;

6 (6) the number of scholarship recipients who failed to  
7 fulfill their teaching obligation during the previous  
8 fiscal year;

9 (7) the number of scholarship recipients granted an  
10 extension described in subsection (k) of this Section  
11 during the previous fiscal year;

12 (8) the number of scholarship recipients required to  
13 repay scholarship assistance in accordance with subsection  
14 (j) of this Section during the previous fiscal year;

15 (9) the number of scholarship recipients who  
16 successfully repaid scholarship assistance in full during  
17 the previous fiscal year;

18 (10) the number of scholarship recipients who  
19 defaulted on their obligation to repay scholarship  
20 assistance during the previous fiscal year;

21 (11) the amount of scholarship assistance subject to  
22 collection in accordance with subsection (j) of this  
23 Section at the end of the previous fiscal year;

24 (12) the amount of collected funds to be remitted to  
25 the Comptroller in accordance with subsection (j) of this  
26 Section at the end of the previous fiscal year; and

1           (13) other information that the Commission may  
2 reasonably request.

3           (n) Nothing in this Section shall affect the rights of the  
4 Commission to collect moneys owed to it by recipients of  
5 scholarship assistance through the Illinois Future Teacher  
6 Corps Program, repealed by this amendatory Act of the 98th  
7 General Assembly.

8           (o) The Auditor General shall prepare an annual audit of  
9 the operations and finances of the Golden Apple Scholars of  
10 Illinois Program. This audit shall be provided to the Governor,  
11 General Assembly, and the Commission.

12           (p) The suspension of grant making authority found in  
13 Section 4.2 of the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act shall not  
14 apply to grants made pursuant to this Section.

15           (Source: P.A. 98-533, eff. 8-23-13; 98-718, eff. 1-1-15.)

16           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
17 becoming law."